

Listing of the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims in the application:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of loading a class file into a virtual machine, said class file being associated with a class, and said virtual machine operating in an object-oriented computing system, said method comprising:

loading said class file into a memory portion of the computing system, wherein said loading operates to load copy said class file in its entirety into said memory portion ~~without~~ prior to further processing said class file;

selecting information from said class file in said memory portion after said class file has been loaded into said memory portion, wherein said selecting operates to select information that is to be loaded into said virtual machine; and

loading said selected information ~~directly~~ from said class file in said memory portion into said virtual machine and not loading information which has not been selected from said class file into said virtual machine.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said selecting of information operates to select information from said class file that is needed to be used by the virtual machine.

5. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said selecting of information operates to select information that includes information associated with at least one method of said class.

6. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said loading of only said selected information operates to create an internal representation of the class file in the virtual machine.
7. **(Currently Amended)** A method as recited in claim 6, wherein said method further comprises generating in said internal representation of said class file ~~includes~~ a method reference portion for said selected information, wherein said method reference portion includes one or more references cells which provide information associated with one or more methods which have been selected to be loaded into said virtual machine.
8. (Original) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein said method reference portion includes a method name field, a method signature field, and a method code field.
9. **(Currently Amended)** A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said loading of only said selected information operates to populate said method name field, method signature field, and method code field with ~~appropriate~~ information or references to ~~appropriate~~ information.
10. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said memory is a heap memory of said computing system.
11. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:
determining whether an internal representation of the class file exists in the virtual machine; and
creating an internal representation of the class file in the virtual machine when said determining determines that an internal representation of the class file does not exist in the virtual machine.
12. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:
determining whether said class file exists in said memory portion; and
loading said class file in said memory portion when said determining determines that said class file does not exist in said memory portion.

13. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:
removing said class file from said memory portion.

14. (Original) A method as recited in claim 13, wherein said removing is performed
on a Least Recently Used basis.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of loading a class file into a virtual machine,
said class file being associated with a class, and said virtual machine operating in a
computing system, said method comprising:

encountering a request to use at least one method of a class associated with a
class file;

determining whether said class file exists in a dedicated heap memory portion;

loading said class file in its entirety into said dedicated heap memory portion
when said determining determines that said class file does not exist in said dedicated
heap memory portion;

selecting information associated with said at least one method of said class,
wherein said selecting operates to select said information directly from said class file in
said dedicated memory;

determining whether an internal representation of said selected information exists
in said virtual machine;

creating an internal representation of said selected information in said virtual
machine when said determining determines that an internal representation of said
selected information of said class file does not exist in said virtual machine; and

loading into said virtual machine said selected information associated with said at
least one method of said class and not loading into said virtual machine information that
was not selected.

16. (Original) A method as recited in claim 15, wherein the method further
comprises:

removing said class file from said dedicated heap memory portion on a Least
Recently Used basis.

17. **(Currently Amended)** A method as recited in claim 15, wherein said selected information includes a method name field, a method signature field, and a method code field with ~~appropriate~~ information or references to ~~appropriate~~ information.

18. (Original) A method as recited in claim 15, wherein said internal representation includes a reference cell associated with said at least one method.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer readable media, including computer program code for loading a class file into a virtual machine, said class file being associated with a class, and said virtual machine operating in an object-oriented computing system, said computer program code comprising:

computer program code for loading said class file into a memory portion of the computing system wherein said loading operates to load **copy** said class file in its entirety ~~without~~ **prior to further** processing said class file;

computer program code for selecting information from said class file **from said memory portion** after said class file has been loaded into said memory portion, wherein said selecting operates to select information that is to be loaded into said virtual machine; and

computer program code for loading said selected information **of said class file** directly from said memory portion into said virtual machine, and not loading information which has not been selected from said class file into the virtual machine.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Original) A computer readable media as recited in claim 19, wherein said computer program code for selecting of information operates to select information from said class file that is needed to be used by the virtual machine.